

Cyprus - New Immigration rules for UK Nationals and other 3rd Country Nationals.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on 27 May 2022

Changes have been made to the government granting immigration permits to non-EU nationals, improving the self-employed procedure, but increasing the requirements and conditions for retirees.

These changes will need to be approved by parliament before being enacted into law, which does mean that there may be slight alterations to the final version.

Importantly, now that the UK is no longer a member of the EU these changes will apply to all new arrivals from the UK who wish to apply for residence in Cyprus. As well as a residency permit, individuals who wish to work in Cyprus will need to apply for the relevant work permit.

Initially new arrivals may wish to apply for a temporary visa, with a view to considering whether they wish to make Cyprus their new home. Unfortunately, a temporary visa does not allow individuals to seek employment and so individuals will need to ensure they have sufficient financial means to live in Cyprus until such time as they can obtain the necessary residency and work permits.

There are special arrangements for Students, that are not covered in this update.

The changes are to the following categories of residence:

- **Retirees, or foreigners with sufficient means to sustain themselves whilst living in the Republic:**

This refers to individuals who intend to reside in the Republic without exercising any employment or other economic activity in the Republic and have fully and freely at their disposal a secured annual income of **€40,000**, increased by **€10,000** for each additional member of the family, as well as a suitable privately-owned dwelling in the Republic for their and their family's stay, of a value of at least **€250,000**.

- **Self-employed foreigners,**

This is individuals who are intending to be self-employed in a business or profession or science in the Republic, provided that the following conditions are met.

(i) They possess the qualifications for the pursuit of that profession or science or for the operation of that particular undertaking.

(ii) If a professional or other licence or permit is required to be able to work in the field, they choose they must hold that relevant licence/permit.

(iii) They hold sufficient funds for this purpose, the amount of which shall be determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

(iv) They have settled any obligations to the Social Insurance Services and the Tax Department in relation to taxes and contributions.

(v) This employment will benefit the Republic; it will align with its development priorities, not adversely affect its general economy, and not create unjustified competition in the domestic labour market.

- **Employed Foreigners:**

This is individuals who are offered employment and who intend to accept it, if this does not create unjustified competition in the field of employment in which they intend to work. The individual and their employer must conclude an employment contract, duly certified by the tax authority. Any employer needs to meet the established criteria and conditions for the employment of foreigners.

- **Foreign Investors:**

This is for individuals who have made a significant investment in the Republic, the amount and type of investment is determined by the Council of Ministers. The funds for the investment must have come from sources outside the Republic.

Applying for residence and work permits can take time and be a complex procedure. Anyone who wants to apply should seek guidance before coming to live in Cyprus. In most cases documents in support of an application must be original or certified and apostilled copies, so it is important to be able to obtain all of the necessary documents before applying. Proof of source and amount of income is mandatory in most cases and must be provided.

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